

Remarks

The Office Action mailed April 19, 2002 has been carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Michaels is respectfully traversed.

Michaels et. al. describes a reduced noise reluctance machine having a front end-shield 12a and rear end-shield 12b positioned adjacent to and attached to a stator 11 by a number of bolts 13. A shutter mechanism 23 is coupled to a smaller diameter section 22 at one end of a rotor shaft 19. A sensor board 25 is coupled to the rear end-shield 12b by bolts 26. The sensor board 25 includes optical sensors that receive teeth of shutter mechanism 23 and generate signals that provide an indication of the angular position of the rotor with respect to the rotor. A dust cover 30 is positioned over the shutter mechanism 23 and sensor board 25 and coupled to rear end-shield 12b by an interlocking snap arrangement.

Claim 1 recites, "An electronically commutated brushless motor comprising: a housing having a circumferential internal wall; at least one position sensor for sensing a position of a rotor of said motor during operation of said motor; a bridge integrally formed at one axial end of said housing and configured to precisely support

said position sensor within a generally hollow interior area of said bridge; a plurality of locating ribs integrally formed on said internal wall of said housing and configured to precisely situate a stator; and wherein said locating ribs and said bridge, both being integrally formed on said housing, eliminate the possibility of misalignment of said position sensor relative to said stator during assembly of said motor."

Michaels et. al. neither describes nor suggests a brushless motor comprising a housing having a circumferential inner wall. Rather, Michaels et. al. describes a front end-shield and rear end-shield positioned adjacent to and attached to a stator by a number of bolts. Additionally, Michaels et. al. neither describes nor suggests a bridge integrally formed at one axial end of the housing and configured to precisely support a position sensor within a generally hollow interior area of the bridge. Rather, Michaels et. al. describes a shutter mechanism coupled to a smaller diameter section at one end of a rotor shaft, and sensor board coupled to the rear end-shield by bolts. The sensor board includes optical sensors that receive teeth of the shutter mechanism and generate signals that provide an indication of the angular position of the rotor with respect to the rotor. Furthermore, Michaels et. al. neither describes nor suggests a plurality of locating ribs integrally formed on the internal wall of the housing and configured to precisely situate a stator, wherein the locating ribs and the bridge, both being integrally formed on the housing, eliminate the possibility of misalignment of

the position sensor relative to the stator during assembly of the motor. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claims 2-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 are likewise patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claim 7 recites, "A method for accurately aligning a position sensor of an electronically commutated motor relative to a position of a stator of the motor...", that somewhat parallels the limitations in Claim 1. In accordance with the remarks set forth above, in reference to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 is patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claims 8-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-14 are likewise patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claim 15 recites, "A electronically commutated brushless motor ...", that includes limitations similar to those of Claim 1. In view of the remarks set forth above, in reference to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claims 16-18, depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that Claims 16-18 are likewise patentable over Michaels et. al.

Claim 19 recites, "A housing for a brushless motor which enables a stator and at least one rotor position sensing component to be readily accurately aligned relative to each other during assembly...", that includes limitations similar to those in as Claim 1. In view of the remarks set forth above, in reference to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is patentable over Michaels et. al.

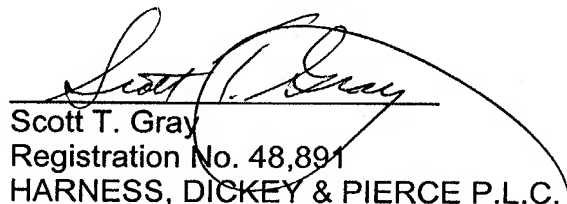
Claims 20 depends directly from Claim 19. When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants submit that Claim 20 is likewise patentable over Michaels et. al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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